

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: : Group Art Unit: 2766
Josh Hogan :
Serial No. : Examiner
Filed: :
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING DATA ENCRYPTION
AND ERROR CODE CORRECTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the section starting on page 1, line 5 with the following.

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/053,972 filed April 2, 1998
and issued as U.S. Patent No. _____, which was a continuation-in-part of U.S.
Serial No. 08/896,002 filed July 15, 1997 and issued as U.S. Patent No.
6,047,069.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 2-9 and 11-25.

Add claims 26 and 27 as follows.

26. (Added) A system comprising:

a computer bus;

a host processor programmed to perform error code correction; and

a drive for providing an encryption mask, the drive performing a bitwise XOR of an encryption mask and a block of ECC-encoded data, a product of the bitwise XOR being an encrypted block; the drive providing the encrypted block to the computer bus, whereby an encrypted block can be sent to the host processor via the computer bus for error code correction.

27. (Added) A drive comprising:

a reader; and

a controller programmed to perform a bitwise XOR of an encryption mask and a block of ECC-encoded data, a product of the bitwise XOR being an encrypted block, the controller further being programmed to output the encrypted block.

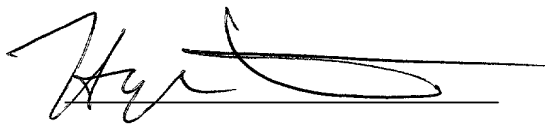
REMARKS

This is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Serial No. 09/053,972 filed April 2, 1998. Claims 1, 10, 26 and 27 are pending. The pending claims in this continuation application are present in U.S. Serial No. 09/053,972.

The pending claims were rejected in the parent application. On February 7, 2001 the undersigned discussed the pending claims with Examiner DiLorenzo. The undersigned indicated that the prior art cited by the examiner - Monroe, Davis and official notice that it is well known to perform XOR encryption of data strings - did not teach or suggest applying XOR encryption to ECC codewords. Thus combining the teachings of the cited art did not

produce the claimed invention. Moreover, the cited art provided no reason, incentive or motivation for combining the teachings of Monroe, Davis and the official notice. An agreement on the pending claims was not reached. Hence this continuation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Gortler', is written over a horizontal line.

Hugh P. Gortler, Reg. No. 33,890

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